



St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed



Tel: 0191 2153260 Fax: 0191 2153279

mail@st-marys.newcastle.sch.uk

www.stmarysnewcastle.co.uk

16 November 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: St Mary's Sixth Form Open Evening – Tuesday, 13 December 2016, at 6pm-8pm

As you will be aware, this is a crucial time for your son/daughter as they continue to work hard for their GCSEs and begin to think about their options for the next academic year. Each year, the majority of our Year 11 students decide to stay on at St Mary's, progressing through to our Sixth Form, and we want to explore what options will be available to them and to give you information about how we intend to guide and support your son/daughter as they make this transition into our Sixth Form at St Mary's.

To give you an insight into the Sixth Form, and what students can expect if they continue studying at St Mary's, I would like to invite you to our Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday 13th December 2016, starting at 6pm. As well as a presentation from Mr Foster and myself about life in the Sixth Form, there will be an opportunity to discuss with teachers the subjects that are available in our Sixth Form. This is a very important part of the evening as it will also give students an insight into the demands of the courses that we offer, and the entry requirements for individual courses. We think this is a useful time for students to talk to teachers about the ways of learning, the expectations that will be placed upon them, and the content of our Sixth Form courses. All of this information will then help students make informed decisions about their next steps.

Following the Sixth Form Open Evening, next half-term, each student in Year 11 will be offered a meeting with me, or another member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team. The purpose of this meeting is to give us an idea of what students wish to study and whether this is appropriate for them, based on their predicted performance at GCSE level and the entry requirements for our courses. This also helps us plan, provisionally, our post-16 curriculum for September 2017.

Please find overleaf, an overview of the transition programme that outlines how your child will be supported as they move into Year 12.

This is an important and exciting time for your son/daughter and we will ensure that they are supported and informed of all the options available to them. With your continued support, I am sure the transition into the Sixth Form will be a smooth one, and I very much look forward to meeting you at the Open Evening. I would be very grateful if you would complete the reply slip below, indicating your intention to attend the Open Evening, and return it via your child's form teacher.

Yours faithfully,

D McKeating
Senior Assistant Headteacher

As the parents/carers of _____ in form group _____

We will/will not be attending the Sixth Form Open Evening on 13 December 2016 starting at 6pm.



Transition Programme: Year 11 into Year 12

Date	Event
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sixth Form Open Evening
January - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students in Year 11 meet with a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team to discuss options and subjects, and to discuss any initial questions students might have about Sixth Form
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option blocks finalised, following meetings with students, so that the school timetable for 2017 can be devised
May / June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 sit their GCSE exams. Parents and students are welcome to contact Mr McKeating during this time with any questions they have regarding the transition process
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the GCSE exams, students will experience a 'taster day', to give them the opportunity to experience Sixth Form lessons and routines Students will be issued with compulsory work to be completed before the start of term in the subjects they have chosen to study
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following publication of GCSE results on 24 August 2017, final review of students achieving grades required for entry onto chosen courses Further meetings with students to discuss options if changes need to be made
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are inducted into the Sixth Form and begin their Sixth Form studies